

Deer Creek Pilot  
Thursday, March 6, 2003

## *The Editorial*

# Our agenda is finding the truth

Not that we have any illusions that it would make any difference to those of a certain mindset, but our goal in examining the Yazoo Backwater Pump project, at least as it applies to Sharkey and Issaquena counties, is neither to benefit nor obstruct the advancement of that project.

Despite some rather absurd already voiced contentions to the contrary, our "agenda" is not a terribly complicated one—it's just to see if we can't find out the truth. Call us old fashioned, but that way, it seems to us, we might be able to have an honest and intelligent debate on a public policy issue—not on propaganda or on hyperbole, but on facts.

If the Yazoo Backwater Pump project—which has been on the table for 60 years, and which only represents, at minimum, a \$231 million investment over the next 50 years—is one that is worth doing, then for heaven's sake, let's do it.

But let's not fool either ourselves or anybody else that what has always been a project proposed as one to protect against backwater flooding of agricultural land and enhance agricultural production has suddenly turned into one which would protect old ladies and babies from flooding in their homes every year.

Because at least in Sharkey and Issaquena counties, that simply isn't so. And we know it. Our experience tells us so and our common sense tells us so. Backwater flooding isn't flash flooding. People here, at least, aren't trapped and threatened by the kinds of rapidly rising floodwaters which take lives.

People flooding is a lot stronger argument than soybean land flooding to make to people who might not have a dog in the fight. But one has to subscribe to a philosophy of "the end justifies the means" to sanction the proliferation of what amounts to—and we're being kind here—a misrepresentation of the facts, as far as our two counties are concerned.

Sorry, but we're not that cynical, yet.